

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image capture system having an image capture unit for capturing image data representing an image, a display unit for displaying the image captured by the image capture unit, and a recording control unit for executing at least one of processing for recording the image data, which has been captured by the image capture unit, on a portable recording medium and processing for recording an image represented by the image data, which has been captured by the image capture unit, on a visible recording medium, said system comprising:
- a hot-pluggable input/output interface to which an input/output unit can be connected;
 - a command input unit for applying a use verification command which verifies use of the image capture unit;
 - a determination unit for determining whether the input/output unit has been connected to said input/output interface; and
 - a notification unit for giving notification that input/output of an image by an input/output unit connected to said input/output interface is possible when the use verification command has been applied from said command input unit and said determination unit has determined that the input/output unit has been connected, and for giving notification that an input/output unit can be connected to said input/output interface when said determination unit has determined

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that the input/output unit has not been connected.

2. The system according to claim 1, wherein said command input unit is a verification unit for verifying that at least part of a user fee for using the image capture system has been paid.

3. A method of controlling operation of an image capture system having an image capture unit for capturing image data representing an image, a display unit for displaying the image captured by the image capture unit, and a recording control unit for executing at least one of processing for recording the image data, which has been captured by the image capture unit, on a portable recording medium and processing for recording an image represented by the image data, which has been captured by the image capture unit, on a visible recording medium, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a hot-pluggable input/output interface to which an input/output unit can be connected;

detecting whether a use verification command which verifies use of the image capture unit has been applied;

determining whether the input/output unit has been connected to the input/output interface; and

giving notification that input/output of an image by an input/output unit connected to the input/output interface is possible when the use verification command has been detected and it has been determined that the input/output unit has been connected, and giving notification that an input/output unit can be connected

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to the input/output interface when it has been
determined that the input/output unit has not been
connected.

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